



### Stilgebauer Award 2010 – Application Form

Please provide the information below. This application form needs to accompany the Project Summary for the project to be considered for a Stilgebauer award. Individuals or teams may complete the required information for their own project(s) or for another teacher or group's project

Project Name: MY DOG ATE MY BLOG	
School Regional Area	<input type="checkbox"/> North Cook <input type="checkbox"/> South Cook <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> West 40
District Name	WESTCHESTER
District No.	92.5
Name(s)-Teams with up to 5 members will be accepted! Include all names.	Email Address(s)
* BRIDGET HORN	* bhorn@sd925.org
* SALLY KUHN	* skuhn@sd925.org
*	*
*	*
*	*
School Name	WESTCHESTER MIDDLE SCHOOL
School Street Address	11020 NORFOLK
School City, State, Zip	WESTCHESTER, IL 60154
School Phone Number	708-450-2735
If you are providing information to nominate another teacher or group, please provide your information below (if different from those named above).	
Nominator's Name	Mary Leidigh
Nominator's Phone #	708-450-2735
Best Contact Time	8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Nominator's Email	mleidigh@sd925.org

Please attach the Project Summary to this form and send to Learning Technology Center One Central at 2701 W. Washington Blvd., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Bellwood, IL 60104

**Stilgebauer 2009 Submission****Title: My Dog Ate My Blog**

Bridget Horn, Language Arts

Sally Kuhn, Technology

Westchester Middle School, Westchester Illinois

**Project Abstract:**

Two sixth grade Language Arts classes strengthen writing, editing, and higher order thinking skills through commentary, debate and opinion with each other on Ms. Horn's Blog, a current and world events blog. Students will

- Stay informed about current events
- Think critically about the world around us
- Form evidence based opinions
- Learn to respect others' opinions and beliefs
- Discuss current events using the Socratic method of questioning
- Learn safe and appropriate online behavior

The blog is opened up to parents for viewing only. Later in the year, the two sixth grade classes will search to join another online class from another part of the world to enter into a discussion blog on world events. This first blog is an important step to hone writing, communication and netiquette skills.

**Grade Level: 6**

**Subject Area:** Language Arts, Social Studies, Technology

**Technology Resources:** Computer, Internet Connection, online web resources:

<http://mshornsblog.wikispaces.com/> **Other Materials Used:** Online newspapers and other news resources

**Illinois State Standards/Language Arts****State Goal 1: Read with understanding and fluency**

C. Comprehend a broad range of reading materials.

1.C.3a Use information to form, explain and support questions and predictions.

**State Goal 2: Read and understand literature representative of various societies, eras and ideas.**

B. Read and interpret a variety of literary works

2.B.3a Respond to literary material from personal, creative and critical points of view.

**State Goal 3: Write to communicate for a variety of purposes.**

3.C.3a Compose narrative, informative, and persuasive writings (e.g., in addition to previous writings, literature reviews, instructions, news articles, correspondence) for a specified audience.

3.A.3 Write compositions that contain complete sentences and effective paragraphs using English conventions.

3.B.3b Edit and revise for word choice, organization, consistent point of view and transitions among paragraphs using contemporary technology and formats suitable for submission and/or publication.

**Social Emotional Standards**

Goal 2: Use social-awareness and interpersonal skills to establish and maintain positive relationships. A: Recognize the feelings and perspectives of others.

## **NETS Standards**

### **2. Communication and Collaboration**

Students use digital media and environments to communicate and work collaboratively, including at a distance, to support individual learning and contribute to the learning of others.

### **3. Research and Information Fluency**

Students apply digital tools to gather, evaluate, and use information. Students:

### **4. Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, and Decision Making**

Students use critical thinking skills to plan and conduct research, manage projects, solve problems, and make informed decisions using appropriate digital tools and resources. Students:

### **5. Digital Citizenship**

Students understand human, cultural, and societal issues related to technology and practice legal and ethical behavior.

**Process:** Tech Coordinator created the wiki at <http://mshornsblog.wikispaces.com/>. Tech Coordinator also set up members, settings and created logins, passwords and contract. Teacher created the text for the splash page, criteria, lesson plan and participation rubric. She researches and posts a weekly topic to the wiki with either a video, newslink or both. Students sign contract, change password, import their pictures to the wiki, and post a reply or argument to the weekly discussion. They must include at least one fact from the video or news link to support the opinion. The result is an active blog with which members debate weekly issues such as “*More Troops in Afghanistan*”, “*Zero Tolerance Policies*” and “*Guantanamo Bay Prisoners in Illinois.*” At the end of the second trimester, the class will invite another global classroom with which to discuss current events through the Epals site

**Integration:** Having students blog is basically journal writing on the live side. It is responding to and commenting on curriculum topics as they are being studied. It is creating written projects through media projects and commenting on each other’s work.

Since parents are invited to the blog, they are encouraged to share a classroom event with families. As handwriting persuasive papers were to the past, blogging is to the future.

**Reflection:** Blogging encourages process writing and practices persuasive writing which has students take varied points of view on a topic. 6<sup>th</sup> grade students feel passionate about what is going on in the world today and are learning to articulate this in their responses. A student said about Guantanamo Bay: “*I agree with Abby. It would be creepy to know they aren't that far away from us. However the prison costed millions of taxpayer money that shouldn't go to waste. It would also create hundreds of jobs such as guards and supervisors. Not to mention, since it cost a lot of money it is probably one of the most secure prisons in the country. I think they should transfer the prisoners there.*” Students feel their voice is being heard on major issues amongst adults and peers.